



Senator Wayne Allard's Report from Washington

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Senate Agriculture Committee Approves Allard Cockfighting Bill

Last year, I introduced S. 345, to amend the Animal Welfare Act to ban transporting roosters across state lines for the purpose of participating in cockfights. I am pleased to report that this legislation was passed by the Senate Agriculture Committee on March 2nd and will now be considered by the full Senate. This bill will ensure that people in the 47 states, including Colorado, where cockfighting is illegal will no longer be able to claim these birds are for out-of-state contests. By closing the loophole which allows interstate transport of these birds, law enforcement officials will be better able to enforce their state laws.

White River National Forest Hearing

Last month, the Senate Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee held a White River National Forest Hearing at the request of Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO). I was pleased to participate in this hearing and discuss the proposal with a number of Colorado groups impacted by the Forest Service plan. The hearing was extremely informative and gave me an opportunity to voice my concerns on the impact of the plan on water as well as the process in which the different proposals were developed. I will continue to work with Senator Campbell and Congressman Scott McInnis (R-CO) on this important issue to ensure that the Forest Service addresses these and others concerns regarding the White River National Forest proposal.

Strategic Subcommittee Hearings

As chairman of the Strategic Subcommittee on the Armed Services Committee, I chaired three hearings in February. First, we considered the newly established National Nuclear Safety Administration and the defense programs at the Department of Energy and their role in ensuring the safety of our Nation's nuclear weapons. We then held a hearing focused on the latest missile threats to the US and progress of the Ballistic Missile Defense system. Finally, we reviewed Environmental Management programs at the Department of Energy (DOE) and the clean-up of DOE contaminated sites, such as Rocky Flats. The Subcommittee will convene on March 8th to consider US Space Command and its operations. As Chairman of the Strategic Committee, I will continue to make national security a top priority.



Like most Coloradans, my wife Joan and I recently received letters from the Social Security Administration detailing the amount of supplemental retirement income that would be available to us starting at the time of our retirement. Also, like most Coloradans, Joan and I have been paying into Social Security our entire lives. Every pay period, every month, all year every year, we send a significant portion of our earned income to the federal government. This represents

an enormous financial commitment on the part of American workers and I am profoundly concerned with the ability of the federal government to hold up it's end of the bargain.

Since the establishment of the Social Security Trust Fund, where the money paid into Social Security is stored, Congress has frequently "raided" the fund in order to pay for annual, discretionary spending. Discretionary spending funds the routine operations of federal agencies which is decided annually by Congress and the President.

The current Social Security system is very vulnerable if we can not completely halt this irresponsible spending practice. More Americans will be reaching retirement age over the next two decades than ever before. Simultaneously we will have fewer people joining the workforce and contributing into Social Security. Clearly we can not continue to defer our debts and irresponsibly spend Social Security money on discretionary spending.

From the Senator Paying Down The Debt Protects Social Security

One major accomplishment in the long-term battle for the protection of Social Security is the balancing of the federal budget. Maintaining this balance is essential to the protection of Social Security. Despite recent budgetary success, the temptation still remains for Congress and the President to spend Social Security money for discretionary spending. For this reason, I have introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate to put in

place a plan that protects Social Security by paying down the debt.

My bill is very simple. As you can see

Debt Repayment Plan

(in millions of dollars)

Year	Budget Surplus	Debt Payment	Public Debt	Interest Paid
2001	\$187,000	\$15,000	\$3,440,000	\$223,600
2006	\$433,000	\$90,000	\$3,140,000	\$204,100
2011	\$730,080	\$165,000	\$2,465,000	\$160,225
2016	\$888,254	\$240,000	\$1,415,000	\$91,975
2021	\$1,080,697	\$305,000	\$0	\$0
Total Interest Savings: \$3,297,201				

by the chart in this article, the legislation would put aside \$15 billion starting in 2001 and increase the amount by \$15 billion each successive year until the entire debt owed to the public is paid off. This money would be in addition to the "lock box" proposal currently before Congress, which if enacted would build up an estimated \$1.8 trillion in the Social Security Trust Fund over the next 10 years. The two proposals together will completely pay off our public debt and build up a reserve in the Social Security Trust Fund for future generations.

I am committed to passing legislation to protect the Social Security Trust Fund. Congress and the President owe it to the American people to protect their investment in Social Security. Unless we take steps to pay down the debt, we cannot say we are sincere in our efforts to provide for the future of our children and grandchildren.

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